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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4020
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 2174
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 1049
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 1238
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0818
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0360
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0913
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 1314
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 1476
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/06/2016

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [TH](#) [CA](#)

SUBJECT: THAI COUP: CANADIANS WERE NOT AMUSED

REF: STATE 166345

Classified By: A/DCM BRIAN FLORA FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

¶1. (C) Pol M/C delivered reftel demarche on the U.S. reaction to the Coup in Thailand to Foreign Affairs Office Director Deborah Paul (Southeast Asia and the Pacific Region) on October 5. Paul said our approach was very timely, as she was heading an interagency task force that was seeking ways to impress upon the coup leaders (and the military in other states in the region) the seriousness with which Canada views developments in Thailand. Foreign Minister MacKay immediately expressed Canada,s dismay and called for the rapid return of a democratic government, restoration of democratic institutions, and respect for human rights and freedoms.

¶2. (C) The government intends to make it clear that it is not just &business as usual until democracy is restored. No official visits have been scheduled, and the Foreign Office intends to recommend against any taking place until free and fair elections take place. Canada led the move at the recent Francophonie to defer Thailand,s request for observer status. Assistance programs (except for those involving humanitarian assistance and health matters) will be reviewed on a case by case basis, and Canada,s limited military exchange/training program will likely be cancelled. Ms. Paul said that the Canadian mission Bangkok was already coordinating with its U.S., Australian, and New Zealand counterparts, but Canada was open to further coordination and ideas on how to signal the West,s displeasure and convince the military leaders to get back to the barracks.

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